

THE
DECLARATION
OF HIS
EXCELLENCE
The Lord Generall
FAIRFAX,
AND

His Generall Councell of Officers.

S H E W I N G
The Grounds and Reasons of the Armies advance towards
the City of LONDON, and their Resolution and
Proposals thereupon.

By the Appointment of His Excellency the Lord Fairfax,
Lord Generall, and His Generall Councell of Officers, held
at Windsor, Nov. 30. 1648.

Signed,

JOHN RUSHWORTH, Secr.

ALSO,

His Excellencies Letter and Summons to the Right Hono-
rable the Lord Major, Read and debated at the Councell
Table in Guild Hall, Friday Decemb. 1. 1648.

S g n e d ,

T. FAIRFAX.

Whereunto is annexed,

The Answer and Resolution of the Lord Major, Aldermen, and
Common-councell of the City of London thereupon,

LONDON, Printed for GEORGE MORTON, 1648.

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THE
DECLARATION
OF
His Excellency the Lord Gen: Fairfax, and his General
Council of Officers, shewing the grounds of
the Armies advance towards the City
of London.

Being full of sad apprehensions concerning the danger and evill of the Treaty with the King, and of any accommodation with him, or restitution of him thereupon, We did by our late Remonstrance upon the Reasons and Grounds therein expressed, make our application thereby unto the present House of Commons, that the dangerous evill of that way might be avoided, and the peace of the Kingdome settled upon more righteous, safe and hopefull grounds, viz. a more equal dispensing of Justice and Mercy in relation to things done or suffered in the late wars, and the establishing of the future Government of this Kingdome.

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for good, to our great satisfaction, by a large

upon a safe succession and equall Constitution of
Parliaments, and that (for the ending of present, and
avoiding of future Differaces) to be Ratified by an
Agreement and Subscription of the people therunto.
Which things we pressed in the way of Reason and
Perswasion only, that they might be duly and care-
ly considered. But to our griefe we find, in stead of
any Satisfaction or a reasonable answer thereto, they
are wholly rejected, without any consideration of
what ever Reason or Justice might be in the things
set forth or propounded therein; for what lesse can
be understood, when the things propounded were
mainly for the avoidance of evils appearing in the
Treaty with the King: And seeing the prevailing part
of those, to whom we did apply, to have as it were
their eyes wilfully shut, and eares stopt, against any
thing of Light or Reason offered to them, we find no
place left for our former charitable or hopefull ap-
prehensions, concerning their errour in such evill
wayes; but remaining fully assured of the danger
and destructiveness thereof, as to all those publicke
ends for which they were intrusted, and also of the just
advantage and necessity which lie in the things we have
propounded and insisted on, we now see nothing left, to
which their engaging and persisting in such waies,
and rejection of these better things propounded, can
rationally be attributed, lesse then a treacherous or
corrupt neglect of, and Apostacy from the Publicke
Trust reposed in them; although we could wish from
our soules, we might yet finde the contrary to be true.
Therefore it is our hearts desire, and shall be our
endeavour, that so much both of the matter and form
of the present Parliamentory Authority may be pre-
served, as can be safe, or will be usefull to these ends,
untill a just and full Constitution thereof, both for

matter and form (suitable to the publique ends, it serves for) can be introduced.

And therefore first, it shalld be great rejoicing (if God saw it good) that the majority of the present House of Commons were become sensible of the evill and distrustfulness of their late way, and would resolvedly and vigorously apply themselves to the speedy execution of justice, with the righting and easing of the oppressed people, and to a just settlement of the Kingdome upon such foundations as have been propounded by us, and others for that purpose, and would for the speedier and surer prosecution of these things exclude from Communication in their Councils, all such corrupt and Apostatized Members as have appeared hitherto, but to obstruct and hinder such matter of Justice, Safety, and publique interest, and to pervert their Councils a contrary way, and have therein so shamefully both falsified, and sortfied their Trust.

But however if God shall not see it good (to vouchsafe that mercy to them and the Kingdome) we shall secondly desire, That so many of them as God hath kept upright, and shall touch with a just sense of those things, would by protestation or otherwise, acquit themselves from such breach of Trust, and approve their faithfulness, by withdrawing from those that persist in the guilt therof, & take such a posture, whereby they may speedily & effectually prosecute those necessary and publique ends, without such interrupcions, Diversions, or depravations of their Councils from the rest, to their endless trouble, and hazard of the Kingdom as formerly, and for so many of them, whose hearts God shall stir up thus to do.

We shall therein, in this case of extremity, looke upon them as persons having materially the chief Trust of the Kingdom remaining in them, and though not a formal standing power to be continued in them, or drawn into ordinary Presidents; yet the best and most rightfull that can be had, as the present state and exigence of affaires now stand; And we shal accordingly owne them, adhere to them, and be guided by them in their faithful prosecution of that trust, in order ynto, and until the introducing of a more full and formal power in a just Representative to be speedy endeayoured.

Now yet further to take away all jealousies in relation to our selves, which might withhold or disceurse any honest members from this courage, as we have the witnessse of God in our hearts, that in these proceedings we do not feare, but eyen resolve we wil not take advantages to our selves, either in point of profit or power; and that if God did open to us a way, wherin with honesty and faithfulness to the publique Interest, & good people ingaged for us, we might presently be discharged, so as we might not in our present Employments look on, and be necessary to, yea supporters of the Parliament, in the present corrupt, oppressive and destructive proceedings, wee should with rejoicing, and without more ado, embrace such a discharge, rather then interpose in these things to our owne vast trouble and hazard; so if we could but obtain a rational assurance for the effectuall prosecuting of these things, we shall give any proportionable assurance on our parts, concerning our laying down of arms, when, and as we should be required.

But for the present as the case stands, we apprehend

our selves obliged in duty to God, this Kingdome, and good men therein, to approve our utmost abilities in all honest wayes, for the avoiding of these great evils which we have remonstrated, and for prosecution of the good things we have propounded; and also that such persons who were the inviters of the late invasion from Scotland, the Instigatiers and incouragers of the late insurrections within this Kingdome, and (those forcible wayes failing) have still pursued those wicked designs by treacherous and corrupt counsels, may be brought to publike justice, according to their severall demerits. For all these ends we are now drawing up with the Army to London, there to follow providence as God shall clear our way.

By the Appointment of His Excellency, the Lord Gen. Fairfax, and his Generall Councell of Officers held at Windsor, Nov. 30. 1648.

Signed,

John Rushworth Secr,

A Letter sent from the Lord Gen. Fairfax, to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common-council of the City of London.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

*B*eing upon an immediate advance with the Army to London, we thought good hereby to give you notice thereof. For the ground and necessary leading us hereto, we refer you to our late Remonstrance, and to our former Declaration concerning the same. We have only this further

ther to add, That as we are far from the least thought of plunder or other wrong to your City, or any the places adjoining which we hope your former experience of us will give you cause enough to credit us, so for the better prevention of any disorder in the Souldiery, or of any abuse or inconvenience to the Inhabitants in the quartering of the Souldiery at private houses, we earnestly desire, That you would take a present course for the supply of Money to pay these forces, while we shall be necessitated to stay thereupon which we assure you, we shall so dispose of them into great and void houses about the City as much as may be possible, as that few or none of the Inhabitants shall be troubled with quartering of any soldiers at all: And for this purpose, we desire that 40000.l*l*. may be forthwith provided upon the security of your arrears, to be ready to be paid out to the Forces to morrow night if possible: And we shall be ready to receive from you any intimations for the further prevention of hurt or inconveniences to the City in this busynesse, I remain

Your most assured friend and servant,
Windsor 30.Nov.

1648.

T. FAIRFAX.

Guildha^{ll}, London, Decem. 1. 1648.

The Lord Major, Aldermen, and Common-council, having seriously debated the particulars specified in the fore-going Letter, upon mature deliberation thereon, finds them to be of great consequence in reference to the City of London, and therefore for the safety and preservation thereof, resolved to satisfie his Excellencies desires touching the sum of 40000*l*_s, but withall desire, that the Army may be remanded back, and that the City may be free from quartering of the Souldiery.

F Y N I S.

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